

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A printer, which is connected to a computer via a network, comprising:

transfer means for exchanging information with said computer via said network;

storage means for storing a document file to be printed that is received from said computer via said transfer means;

configuration file generation means for employing print setup information in said document file, which is received from said computer via said transfer means, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

print setup reference means for employing said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu via said transfer means to said computer; and

printing means for printing said document file that is stored in said storage means in accordance with said configuration file.

20 2. A printer according to claim 1, further comprising setup change means, for, when said computer operates said menu via said transfer means, updating contents of said configuration file in accordance with the operation.

25 3. A printer according to claim 1, wherein said menu

includes upper directories that are generated for individual entries in said print setup, and lower directories that are generated for individual setup values, one of which is included in each of said entries, and wherein said menu is formed by correlating visual display elements corresponding to said document file with said lower directories.

4. A method for controlling a printer, which is connected to a computer via a network, comprising steps of:

10 receiving, from said computer via said network, a document file to be printed and print setup information for said document file;

storing said document file;

15 employing said print setup information to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

employing said configuration file to generate a menu that listing contents of said print setup, and transmitting said menu to said computer; and

20 printing said document file in accordance with said configuration file.

5. A computer-readable recording medium on which a control program is stored for a printer that is connected to a computer via a network, said program permitting the computer of

said printer to perform:

a transfer function for exchanging information with said computer via said network;

a storage function for storing to a storage device, a document file to be printed that is received from said computer;

a configuration file generation function, for employing print setup information in said document file, which is received from said computer, to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

a print setup reference function, for employing said configuration file to generate a menu indicating contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu to said computer; and

a printing function for printing said document file that is stored in said storage device in accordance with said configuration file.

6. A recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said program further comprises a setup change function, for, when said computer operates said menu, updating the contents of said configuration file in accordance with the operation.

7. A recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said menu includes upper directories that are generated for individual entries in said print setup, and lower directories that are generated for individual setup values, one of which is included

in each of said entries, and wherein said menu is formed by correlating visual display elements corresponding to said document file with said lower directories.

5           8.       A network printing system comprising:  
          a host computer for generating and transmitting print data; and

          a printer that is connected via a network to said host computer,

10           said host computer comprising:

          user interface means for providing information for a user and for accepting instructions from said user;

          print data generation means for converting, into print data, a file that is designated via said user interface means; and  
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          communication means for communicating with said printer; and

          said printer comprising:

          transfer means for exchanging information with  
20   said host computer via said network;

          storage means for storing said print data received from said host computer via said transfer means;

          configuration file generation means for employing print setup information for said print data, which are  
25   received from said host computer via said transfer means, to

generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said print data;

print setup reference means for employing said configuration file to generate a menu listing the contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu via said transfer means to said user interface means; and

print means for printing, in accordance with said configuration file, said print data stored in said storage means.

10 9. A network printing system according to claim 8, wherein said printer further comprises setup change means, for, when said computer operates said menu via said transfer means, updating the contents of said configuration file in accordance with the operation.

15 10. A network printing system according to claim 9, wherein, when said host computer moves said print data included in said menu to a different printer via said user interface means, the first printer to receive said print data transmits to said 20 different printer said print data stored in said storage means.

25 11. A network printing system according to claim 8, wherein said menu includes upper directories that are generated for individual entries in said print setup, and lower directories that are generated for individual setup values, one of which is

included in each of said entries, and wherein said menu is formed by correlating visual display elements corresponding to said document file with said lower directories.

5           12.       A network printing system comprising:  
          a computer having a file transfer protocol client for transmitting a document file to be printed in accordance with a file transfer protocol; and

10           a printer being connected to said computer via a network and having a file transfer protocol file server,

          said file transfer protocol file server comprising:  
              storage means for storing said document file that is received;

15           configuration file generation means for employing print setup information in said document file and an initial value that is set in advance to generate a configuration file concerning a print setup for said document file;

20           print setup reference means for employing said configuration file to generate a menu that lists the contents of said print setup, and for transmitting said menu to said computer; and

          setup change means for, when said menu is operated by said computer, updating the contents of said configuration file in accordance with an operation,

25           wherein said document file stored in said storage means

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